Message Text

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TO USMISSION OECD PARIS PRIORITY
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GENEVA FOR R;K BANK, USDEL, UNCTAD COMMITTEE ON SHIPPING

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:EWWT, OECD

SUBJECT: OECD TASK FORCE ON WORLD OIL CARRIER SITUATION LONDON FOR USDEL TO MSC REF: A) OECD PARIS 10483, B) OECD PARIS 10836

1, DEPARTMENT AGREES WITH MISSION THAT EFFORT TO GET TANKER TASK FORCE REPORT BEFORE JUNE MINISTERIAL MEETING NEITHER PRACTICAL NOR DESIRABLE IN VIEW OF COMPLEXITY OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROBLEMS INVOLVED. MISSION SHOULD DISCOURAGE SUCH EFFORTS AS IMPRACTICAL.

2, DEPARTMENT DOES, HOWEVER, SEE POSSIBLE MERIT IN DEPUTY SECGEN'S PROPOSAL TO CONVENE AD HOC GROUP TO PROVIDE OVERALL GUIDANCE AND DIRECTION TO RELEVANT COMMITTEES. SUCH A MEETING COULD PERFORM USEFUL SCREENING FUNCTION BY

DETERMINING WHICH OF PROPOSALS IN TASK FORCE REPORT COMMAND WIDE ENOUGH SUPPORT OR INTEREST TO MERIT FURTHER DEVELOPMENT, (FYI. DEPARTMENT VERY MUCH AWARE OF HUMPHREY'S POINT IN REFTEL THAT OIL CARRIER TASK FORCE COULD PROVIDE USEFUL FORUM FOR FURTHER EXPLAINING US TANKER POLLUTION INITIATIVE. END FYI.)

3. USG CAN THEREFORE SUPPORT HAVING AD HOC GROUP MEETING IN MID-MAY FOR PURPOSES PROPOSED BY DEPUTY SECGEN. MISSION

SHOULD NOT, HOWEVER, ACTIVELY PROMOTE SUCH A MEETING AND SHOULD GENERALLY MAINTAIN LOW-KEY POSTURE IN DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING AD HOC GROUP. SHOULD CONSENSUS FAVORING MID-MAY MEETING DEVELOP, HOWEVER, MISSION SHOULD STRONGLY URGE THAT AD HOC GROUP MEETING BE HELD IN TANDEM WITH SCHEDULED MARITIME TRANSPORT COMMITTEE MEETING (PREFERABLY ON FRIDAY IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING MTC MEETING SO THAT MTC CAN CONSIDER RESULTS OF AD HOC GROUP MEETING). WEEK OF MAY 23-27 SHOULD BE AVOIDED, SINCE IMCO COUNCIL MEETS THEN. MISSION SHOULD INDICATE THAT US REPRESENTATION UNLIKELY TO BE MORE "HIGH LEVEL" THAN NORMAL US DELEGATION TO MTC, ALTHOUGH IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO INCLUDE SOME ADDITIONAL EXPERTISE. CHRISTOPHER

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